HARDY SUWAROFF.

Peculiarities of One of Russia's Great Military Commanders.

Suwaroff, Russia's great military commander, was a little man, insignificant in everything but that intangible power of mind and character with which physical strength is never to be compared. He had been sickly in his youth, but became hardy under the stimulus of cold bathing and the benefits of a plain diet. Buckets of cold water were thrown over him in the morning, and his table was served with fare which guests would fain have refused, but dared not lest he should think them effeminate. He despised dress and delighted in drilling his men in shirt sleeves, sometimes with his stockings literally "down at the heel."

But his hardihood of life and action had its effect on the men he commanded. He was often up and about by midnight and would salute the first soldier whom he saw moving with a piercing cockcrow in commendation of his early rising. During the first Polish war he had given orders for an attack at cockcrow, and a spy in the camp carried the news to the enemy. The attack, however, really took place at 9 o'clock in the evening, when the arrangement had been made, for Suwaroff, suspecting treachery, had then turned out his troops by his well known crowing. The enemy, expecting the event in the morning, were entirely unprepared and fell easy victims to his forethought.

"Tomorrow morning," said he to his troops on the evening before the storming of Ismail, "an hour before daybreak I mean to get up. I shall wash and dress myself, say my prayers, give one good cockcrow and then capture Ismail."

Curious Translation Errors.

Some amusing errors are made by translators. An Italian paper turned Kipling's "Absentminded Beggar" into a "Distracted Mendicant." Another Italian editor who translated a passage from an English paper about a man who had killed his wife with a poker added an ingenious footnote to say, "We do not know with certainty whether this thing 'pokero' be a domestic or surgical instrument." The desperate expedient of the French translator of Cooper's "Spy," who had to explain how a horse could be hitched "to a locust," is worth recalling. He had never heard of locust trees and rendered the word by "sauterelle," or grasshopper. Feeling that this needed some explanation, he appended a footnote explaining that grasshoppers grew to a gigantic size in the United States and that it was the custom to place a stuffed specimen at the door of every mansion for the convenience of visitors, who hitched their horses to it.

The Bluejay.

One may pet or patronize, according to one's nature, a chipping sparrow, bluebird or phœbe, but he is indeed well coated with self esteem who does not feel a sense of inferiority in the presence of a jay. He is such a shrewd, independent and aggressive creature that one is inevitably led to the belief that he is more of a success as a bird than most men are as men. Conspicuous by voice and action during the fall and winter, when other birds are quietest, he becomes silent when other birds are most vocal. If he has a love song, it is reserved for the ear of his mate. At this season he even controls his fondness for owl baiting and with it his vituperative gifts. The robin, the catbird and the thrasher seem eager to betray the location of their nests to every passerby, but the bluejay gives no evidence of the site of his habitation by being seen in its vicinity.—Frank M. Chapman in Century.

A Precocious Diplomatist.

Boy—Oh, mamma, I upset the saltcellar over my clean clothes.

Mamma—That was careless. Go and brush the salt off, and see you don't soil the clothes.

"But, mamma, when any one spills salt they have a quarrel, don't they?"

"So they say."

"Well, then, if they don't spill the salt they don't have a quarrel. Isn't that so?"

"Yes, that is so. But why do you ask?"

"Well, because, mamma, it wasn't the salt I spilt; it was the ink."

Zeal and Knowledge.

The Outlook crowds an unusual amount of practical wisdom and good sense into the following paragraph: "Zeal without knowledge, often condemned, is more valuable than knowledge without zeal, often commended, for zeal without knowledge inspires life, and life acquires knowledge; but knowledge without zeal sits in its study, plays with its books and does nothing. All the greatest things in life have been accomplished by enthusiasts whose zeal was greater than their knowledge."

A Business Head.

"You lent him the money to buy that mule from you?"

"Yassir," answered Mr. Erastus Pinkley. "It doesn't look like business, but it were such a good chance to get de bes' of de trade dat I couldn' he'p advancin' de cash."—Washington Star.

Guessing at It.

"Gambler? Well, rather! Why, he's so crazy over games of chance that he patronizes a restaurant where they print the bill of fare in French, and he doesn't know a word of the language."—Chicago Post.

The greatest rest comes from freedom of mind. We can keep our minds free if we will but learn how. Let them take up one thing at a time and be content.

IN A BIG LAUNDRY.

How Soiled Garments Are Handled and Made to Look Clean.

As soon as a laundry package comes in it must be opened, the contents counted and each article marked. Every patron is given a private mark, some combination of letters and figures. The clerk then fills out a printed slip with the name and mark of the customer, the number and kind of garments sent and the page and line on which the entry is made in the record book, so that it may be easily looked up should occasion arise. The slip is hung up before one of the boxes ranged along the side of the room, like the boxes of a postoffice on a large scale. The garments are now ready to be sent down into the wash room.

It is interesting to follow the soiled garments through the different processes that transform them to the state of crisp whiteness. They are first packed into the big iron washers. Revolving cylinders serve as washboards, through whose perforations the soapsuds splash in showers of foam. Sometimes a woman superintends this department, but more often it is given over to a man, for the work is heavy, and a more unenviable position than in the close, steamy basement can hardly be imagined. The process of washing requires between two and three hours, after which the clothes are packed into the condenser and are sent up to go through the process of starching.

The opening of the drier emits a wave of hot air and discloses rows of articles hung before hot steam pipes. There seem to be machines for everything—for moistening the clothes to just the right point, for drying and smoothing out sheets and such large articles, which pass between the cylinders covered with absorbent material, and for polishing shirt bosoms and collars, cuffs and neckbands of shirts.

The girls must be more or less skilled in running these polishers. The shirts are stretched over a kind of bosom board, and the hot roller passes over them. The power is regulated by the foot. In the large laundries there are machines for ironing the bodies of shirts and such plain garments, but in many this work and, in fact, nearly all but the polishing is done by hand. The shirts are then carefully folded and sent out to be sorted.

The collars come through the polishers perfectly flat and shapeless. A girl passes them over to the dampener, which dampens them along the seam and hands them over to her companion at the shaper. Under her guidance they begin to assume the appearance of collars once more, and she finishes her work by giving each collar a deft little turn around the horn attachment.

At the ironing boards in one room skillful laundresses are ironing garments of all forms and sizes. Only one of long experience is intrusted with the fine tucks, frills and embroideries galore. Some of the customers have special rules and regulations governing their laundry, and such articles are designated by a bit of string fastened in the buttonhole. The position of the string indicates whether it is rush work or whether it is to be extra stiff starched, etc.—Lewiston Journal.

The Seal Ring.

The seal ring is known to be the oldest style of ring. It dates back to the days of the Old Testament, and products of the glyptic art, as gem engraving was called, were known in the most remote times. In Exodus xxviii. 17-20, mention is made of the following stones, upon which the names of the twelve children of Israel were engraved: The sardius, the topaz, the carbuncle, the emerald, the sapphire, the diamond, the ligure, the agate, the amethyst, beryl, onyx and jasper. In verse 2 of the same chapter we find mention of the engraving of signets upon the hardest stones. It is believed that the Egyptians instructed the Israelites in the art of stone engraving. The Egyptians used the lapidary's wheel and emery powder and knew the use of the diamond in engraving other hard stones. Among the Assyrian and Babylonian ruins were found fine specimens of signets on gems, many of them set in rings.

A Scheme That Failed.

Bristling with ambition, a young physician who has a limited practice recently thought of a scheme he felt would be a money maker for him. His idea was to fool his neighbors into the belief that he was overrun with business. This he attempted to do by inducing all the charity patients he treated at the dispensary with which he is connected to come to his office, telling them it would be a convenience for him and that it would cost them nothing. But the result was not all he anticipated. While his office was always crowded, the number of his paying patients did not increase, and at the end of the month he had made a visible impression on but one person. His landlady raised his rent, because she was sure he had acquired an extensive and prosperous practice.—Chicago Tribune.

A Winning Chance.

An ex-governor of Massachusetts who had the remarkable talent of always knowing everybody, especially voters, explained at a cattle show how he did it. An old farmer who had once driven him across the country came up to shake hands and was immediately recognized. "Ah," said the governor, "how d'you do? How's Jack?" (Jack was the farmer's son). "Oh, he's well," said the delighted old man. His interest was still further increased when the governor said, "And how's the old white horse?" When the old man had passed on a friend said to the governor, "Did you really remember about that white horse?" "No," he said, "I saw white hair on his coat and chanced it."

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THROWING THE LASSO.

The Manner In Which the Rope Is Handled by an Expert.

"A mistaken impression prevails in the mind of the public in regard to the manner in which a lasso is handled," says an expert. "The idea that the loop is always swung around the head before making a cast, especially when the roper is on foot, is erroneous. No man of experience ever makes a cast in this fashion from the ground in practical work. There are several reasons why he does not. One of them is that the movement is likely to frighten the stock, especially horses; another that he may have to wait some minutes before a favorable opportunity occurs for making a cast. He knows that better results are obtained by holding the rope as unobtrusively as possible, even keeping it concealed from the object of capture.

"On the contrary, however, when mounted and in pursuit it is absolutely necessary to swing the loop over and around the head, for the cast must be made with the greatest possible force in order to overcome not only the forward movement of the pursued, but also the action of the wind should that chance to be against you.

"As to the manner of casting, some 'ropers' cast with a quick, jerky movement of the hand, seeming to use the arm very little and the body not at all. Others employ body, arm and hand. Both methods are effective when perfected by practice."

Board With the Butler.

To avoid the trouble of housekeeping, many wealthy Parisians board with their butler, so to speak. Instead of ordering the food for the household from day to day, they pay a fixed sum per month to their butler or housekeeper, who contracts to supply them with the usual three meals per day, composed of the customary courses, says What to Eat. The price paid for this service varies in accordance with the style of living. If guests be invited to dinner or any sort of entertainment be given, an extra sum per head is paid. In this way the lady of the house avoids the annoyance of butchers' and bakers' bills, and if the butler does not keep his part of the contract it is easy enough to find another to replace him. Of course, the president's household is carried out on this plan on a large scale, and many of the big stores supply all their employees with daily meals in the same manner. The banks and other administrations of similar nature often furnish the noonday meal to their clerks by contract, the latter paying a trifling sum toward the cost.

The Manufacture of Pins.

In 1775 a prize was given to the colonist of Carolina who produced the first native pins and needles. During the war of 1812, when, owing to restrictions upon commerce, the price of pins rose to the enormous sum of $1 per paper, the manufacture was actually started in the United States, but does not seem to have met with success, as the enterprise was soon abandoned. The industry was not fairly started in this country until the year 1836.

The early pins in this country, as in England, were made with globular heads of fine twisted wire, made separately, and secured to the shank by compression from a falling block and die. These old pins had the misfortune of often parting with their heads. It was to overcome this difficulty that the attention of early inventors was directed. The solid headed pin, in common use today, took the place of the old form about 1840.

Couldn't "Kid" Him.

"Have you known what it is to be an orphan?" asks one of the characters in the "Pirates of Penzance," and another replies, "Often." The similarity between the two words causes almost a page of good Gilbertian fun. It would have been otherwise if either of the characters had happened to be an average London boy.

The tale is told of a London boy on his country holiday who was asked by a carter to hold one of his horses. "Which 'orse?" asked the lad. "The off 'un," said the driver. "Horphan," said the boy. "How d'ye think Hi knows which of 'em's a horphan? Garn, you don't kid me." And that closed the incident.—London News.

Out of Proportion.

Benham—I try to believe the Bible, but I find that story of the ten virgins, five of whom were wise and five foolish, a little perplexing.

Mrs. Benham—What's the matter with that?

Benham—Judging from the women I have known, the proportion of foolish ones was altogether too small.—New York Times.

As If It Were Possible.

Claribel—I wonder what that creature meant?

Laurie—What creature?

Claribel—Why, Tentworth, of course. When I told him everybody said I was improving in my singing, he said he was delighted to hear it. The idea!—Stray Stories.

Her Protest.

"Darling," said Edwin, "your eyes are like diamonds, your teeth like pearls, your lips resemble the most glorious rubies, and your hair"—

"Edwin," said Angelina sternly, "remember that you work in a jewelry warehouse and that it's disgusting to talk shop."

Election Promises.

Successful Candidate—I shan't forget the promises in virtue of which I have been elected.

Political Manager—That's right. Bear them in mind. With a little brushing up they'll probably elect you again.—Puck.

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